Tape lifted impression

Image taken at an angle

Image of partial impression in soil

Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division

WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

The Microanalysis Section of the Seattle Crime Laboratory services all counties in Washington for SICAR requests.

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FORENSIC LABORATORY
FLSB
SERVICES BUREAU

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Shoeprint Image Capture and Retrieval Database

SICAR

A resource to help you in your investigations.

What is SICAR and how can this help you?

SICAR is a footwear database which contains manufacturer information including outsole patterns to aid in identifying potential make and/or model of footwear impressions recovered from scenes of a crime.

Footwear impressions that are left at a scene may be challenging to collect or appear to have limited distinguishing information. As a result, limited emphasis gets placed in the collection, or submission, of this evidence. With the use of SICAR, images of footwear impressions, even if taken at an angle, with a point-and-shoot camera, or those with low resolution, can be used to provide investigative information. Even limited design elements, shapes, or logo portions can offer enough information to provide a possible shoe make and model.

Additional Information

There are no crime type restrictions for a SICAR search to be performed - images will be accepted for any crime.

To better assist our agencies the WSP Crime Laboratory will allow agencies to submit images electronically.

What you will need to do to submit images electronically:

* Fill out a Request for Lab Examination (RFLE) Form (3000-210-005).
* Include any specific notes as to what images are to be evaluated or specific information that may be useful.
* Only images with impression information should be submitted. The file size for an image, or the total of multiple images, must not exceed 25 MBs.
* Submit the completed RFLE and images as attachments to:

  shoesearch@wsp.wa.gov
* If you have images that exceed 25 MBs or think that you need to submit numerous images please contact us and we can discuss submission options.
* You can still submit your images over the evidence counter to get this service but it will need to be in sealed packaging.

Questions?

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What we will do:

* We will copy the submitted images onto a CD/DVD to be used for our examination.
* We will evaluate the submitted images by inter-comparing multiple images and/or impressions and coding the impression information into the SICAR Database for searching.
* We will issue a report whether we find a result or not. The report may contain make and model information along with an image of a possible outsole that may be a source of the questioned impression.
* It should be noted that since a SICAR search is for make and model information the examination will not be looking for characteristics such as defects or wear as we would do in a footwear comparison.
* *If shoes are later found and a comparison is needed you will need to submit the suspected shoes along with the original images in sealed packaging as we cannot use the electronically submitted images for a comparison examination.*